

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-7653



September 14, 1983

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 83-97

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL LICENSED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL DISTRICT ADOPTION OFFICES

SUBJECT: FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES BEYOND 18 MONTHS -
FISCAL CONSEQUENCES


REFERENCE:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the mandates of Public Law (PL) 96-272 and Senate Bill (SB) 14 regarding court-ordered extensions of Family Reunification services during the permanency planning hearing.

SB 14 was enacted to ensure California's compliance with the mandates of PL 96-272. Federal statute [PL 96-272, Section 475(5)(c)] requires a permanency planning hearing to be held and a disposition of the case to be made within 18 months of foster placement. State statute [WIC Section 366.25] requires a permanency planning hearing to be conducted within twelve months of placement but gives the juvenile court the option to continue the hearing so that, consistent with federal law, a permanency planning disposition is reached no later than 18 months from the date of placement.

The period over which reunification services may be provided is governed by the federal 18-month maximum limit on foster care prior to the conclusion of a permanency planning hearing. This federal limitation is reflected in the time frames for reunification services which are specified in WIC 361(e). Thus, Family Reunification services which are court ordered beyond 18 months are not eligible for federal funding, and since state statutory service time limits reflect federal standards, will not be eligible for funding through the Social Services Block Grant Allocation. Those activities provided by social services staff after the 18-month statutory time limit are to be reported to Other County Only Programs and funded at the county level.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact your program management consultant at (916) 445-7653 or ATSS 485-7653.


LOREN D. SUTER
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services Section

cc: CWDA